

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6848
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
FISHERMAN IN SRI LANKAN CUSTODY
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to reports regarding the death of a fisherman from Tamil Nadu while in Sri Lankan Police custody recently; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The Government had learnt with concern about the death of an Indian fisherman in Sri Lanka on March 28, 2000. He had been apprehended with seven others in Sri Lankan waters on February 19, 2000. The High Commission of India, Colombo, had taken up with the Sri Lankan authorities the matter of their release, kept in touch with the fishermen through regular consular visits and had arranged for medical treatment. The fisherman reportedly complained of chest pain on March 27 and was taken to hospital where he died of cardiac arrest, according to the post-mortem report. The matter was taken up with the concerned Sri Lankan authorities by our High Commission in Colombo, which arranged to despatch the mortal remains of the deceased to India on March 31, 2000.